GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1530
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
NRHM IN NORTH EASTERN STATES
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has chalked out a multi-pronged strategy to provide better linkages of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the North-Eastern States where health sector needs major overhauling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether lack of trained and specialized doctors is the biggest problem in the North-Eastern States where Cancer is emerging as a major health concern;

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to attract the doctors to the North-Eastern States;

(e) whether the Scheme entitled "Forward Linkages for NRHM in the North-Eastern States" is under preparation; and

(f) if so, the aim of the Scheme and the time by which the Scheme is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The aim of National Rural Health Mission is to provide accessible, equitable, affordable and accountable health services to the rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 states, including North Eastern States.

The implementation framework of National Rural Health Mission provides the necessary framework and flexibilities to take care of the issue with regard to infrastructure development and gaps for provision of basic minimum services, in the North East.

Health institutions from Sub Centres to District Hospitals have been taken up for comprehensive strengthening, including for physical infrastructure, manpower and provisioning of drugs.

A separate Division has been formed in the Ministry to look after the requirements of the NE region.A Regional Resource Centre having a core team of professionals has been set up at Guwahati, with one qualified State Facilitator in each of the eight states, to provide technical assistance to all the North-Eastern States. A strategy for NE states has been drawn by the Ministry.

(c)&(d) The lack of trained and specialized doctors is one of the major problems in North Eastern States. Under NRHM flexibilities have been given to all the NE States to fill in the manpower gaps, especially for specialist doctors and paramedical to meet the service standards as laid down in Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms framed for health institutions from Sub-Centre level to District level hospitals.

Funds have also been provided to all the NE States under NRHM for Multiskilling of doctors through training, in order to take care of requirements of specialist doctors.

(e)&(f) Scheme entitled " Forward Linkages for NRHM in the North-eastern States" has been planned for those activities of North Eastern States which are not in the implementation frame work of NRHM.